



Safety Topic of the Month

Railroad Safety

4/2/08





Rail Safety



See the Hazard:

Over the past year there have been several near misses and crashes involving railcars, and railcar intersections. In many cases, the visibility of the railcar was found to be responsible during many of the incidents.



The Richmond Refinery has put together a team to improve vehicle/pedestrian safety devices around the refinery, as well as raise awareness of the hazards with railcars. Some of the actions and recommendations are:

- Flashing/lighted vests on all RailServe Employees
- Lighting Improvements Re-striping of intersections
- Railserve vehicle to secure intersections
- Barrier arms at key/busy intersections

What Can You Do?

Ultimately, you are responsible for your safety and the safety of those around you. It is imperative that you remember and follow refinery safety rules whenever approaching intersections:

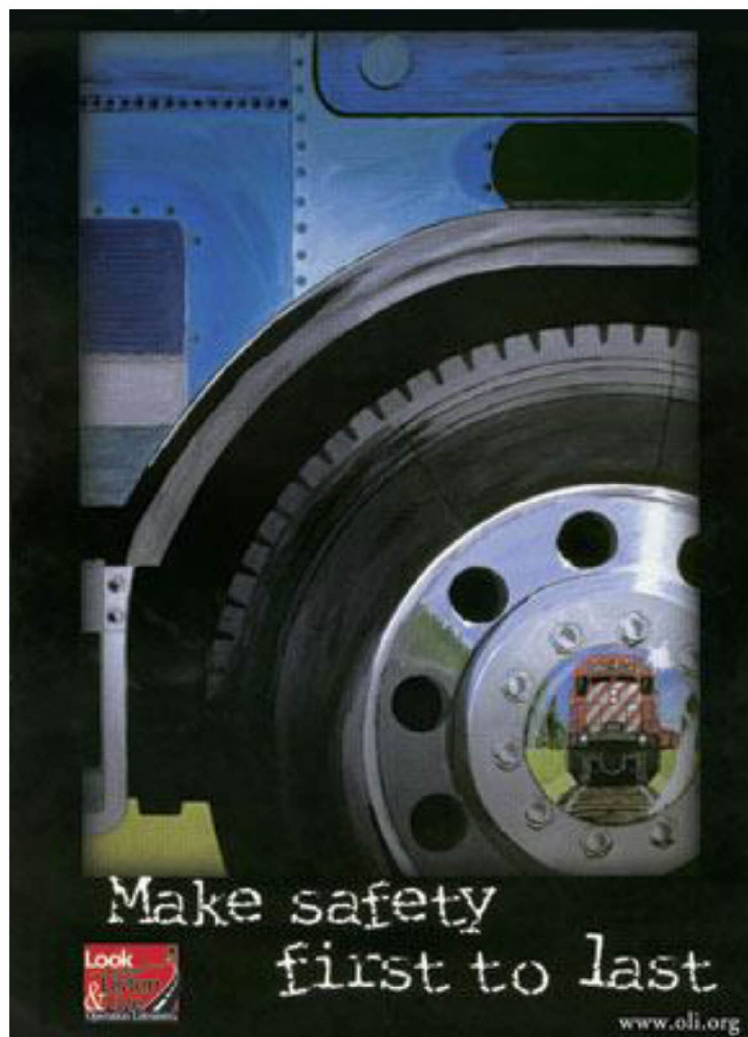
- Perform a full and complete stop at all stop signs.
- Never try to beat the train through an intersection!
- Use extra caution when driving at night
- Assume that other drivers and pedestrians do not see you.
- Follow speed limits. 5 mph in a work area.
- Approach intersections with caution

Within the last two hours...

A train has struck someone in the US or Canada.

The statistics also indicate the pedestrian or motor vehicle occupant was killed.

According to statistics, this motorist or pedestrian was probably on the tracks in spite of an active warning such as bells, lights or gates. That is the case in more than half of these collisions. And The train wasn't going all that fast when it hit the victim – probably less than 30 miles (50 kilometers) an hour.





Complacency can be deadly

The person killed by the train probably was familiar with the track crossing, too.

It could have been a commuter who never before had seen a train at that location at that hour

A professional driver who was pushed for time and tried to duck around the barrier before the train crossed. Maybe it was a forklift driver who waited for a train to pass on one track and did not notice the train coming on a second track in the yard.

Here are some things you need to remember to avoid becoming another train collision statistic:

Before crossing any railroad track, stop and look both ways. If there are multiple tracks, stop and look at each one.

You should expect a train on any track from any direction at any time, regardless of what you have observed in the past and regardless of what you think you know about schedules.

Richmond Refinery MITS Incident # 2007-2023



Date of Incident: 10/30/2007, Time: 5:45 am

Location: Rail Tracks (Petrolite St. extension) at LPG racks control room.

Description of What Occurred

At approximately 5:45 am a contract employee was backing his pick-up truck out of a parking stall at the LPG loading racks as a train was pushing a set of rail cars into the LPG rail car filling racks.

The train did not sound horn because it was in “push” configuration. The train had a conductor riding the lead rail car who noticed the impending accident and called for an emergency stop.

The train was not able to stop in time and collided with the rear bumper of the pick up truck. No injuries resulted and only minor body damage to the pick up truck was sustained. There was no damage to the rail car

Please remember:

While in “push” mode, the train is not required to sound it’s horn at intersections!

All railway crossings are critical – and have the potential for collision. As a pedestrian or vehicle crossing the tracks... always yield to an oncoming train.





Train Safety Tips

1. Train tracks are private property, no matter which railroad owns them. Trains have the right of way 100% of the time — over ambulances, fire engines, cars, the police and pedestrians.
2. If there are rails on the railroad ties, assume that the track is in use, even if there are weeds or the track looks "rusty."
3. A train may extend three feet or more outside the steel rail, which makes the safety zone for pedestrians well beyond the rails themselves.



Train Safety Tips

4. Trains can move in either direction at any time. Trains are sometimes pushed by locomotives instead of being pulled.

5. Never walk down a train track; it's illegal and it's dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer can see a trespasser or a vehicle on the tracks, it is too late. The train cannot stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.

6. Modern trains are quieter than ever, with no telltale "clackety-clack." Also, an approaching train will always be closer and moving faster than you think.

7. Cross tracks **ONLY** at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. Observe and obey all warning signs and signals.



Operation Lifesaver

Operation Lifesaver Notes Drop in Highway-Rail Crossing Collisions and Pedestrian Incidents

ALEXANDRIA, VA, March 7, 2008 - Operation Lifesaver, the national, nonprofit rail safety education organization, today welcomed a reported drop in incidents involving pedestrians struck by trains and vehicle-train collisions at crossings.

[Click here to listen to a PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT](#)



What to do: Crossing Tracks in a vehicle

1. Approach crossing with care. Slow down when you see an Advanced Warning Sign.
2. Prepare to stop. Turn off fans and radio, roll down windows. Look and listen for a train.
3. Stop at least 15 feet from nearest rail, but not more than 50 feet, if you see a train.
4. If it won't fit, don't commit. Trains extend beyond the width of the rails at least 3 feet on each side. If your vehicle has a trailer, remember the additional length.
5. Double check, back left and right. Before you move look in both directions.
6. Cross tracks with care. If your vehicle has a manual transmission, use a gear that will not require shifting until you reach the opposite side.
7. Keep going once you start, even if lights start to flash or gates come down.

Could anything go wrong, and if it does, what's the worse thing that could happen?



Sometimes it's what we **think** as much as what we **do** that gets us into trouble.

Do these accident-provoking thoughts sound familiar?

If I "accelerate" I can make this yellow light.

I won't bother with the seat belt. I'm only going a few blocks.

Nothing is more important than getting to this meeting on time.

I have to beat this train or else I'll have to sit and wait for 97 railcars to roll by.

I have the right-of-way, so look out!

Do it safely or not at all...